



February 20, 2013

Mr. Phil Mocek  
MuckRock News  
Dept. MR 2506  
P.O. Box 55819  
Boston, MA 02205-5819

RE: FOIA Case No. 2013-FPRO-00320

Dear Mr. Mocek:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated January 14, 2013, which you seek access to Postal Service records. Specifically, you requested a copy of any policies restricting photography, video recording, or audio recording from publicly-accessible areas of Post Offices.

The federal FOIA is a record and documents statute that permits access only to federal agency unless the records qualify for one of several exemptions. The core purpose of the FOIA is to provide the public with information about the operations or activities of the government, or in other words, to shed light on the conduct of government agencies. The FOIA does not require agencies to answer questions, provide individuals with explanations, or compile lists of publically available materials.

Regarding your request, enclosed are copies of the following:

- Poster 7, Rules and Regulations Governing Conduct on Postal Service Property
- *Postal Operations Manual* (POM), Section 124.58 — Photographs for News, Advertising, or Commercial Purposes
- Title 39, *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Part 232.1 — Conduct on Postal Property

I hope that this information is helpful. In the future, you can obtain information electronically from our Web site at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). In addition, you can obtain information from the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) Web site at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2006-title39-vol1/pdf/CFR-2006-title39-vol1.pdf>.

In the event you treat this letter as a denial of your request, you may submit an appeal by writing to the General Counsel, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260-1100, within 30 days of the date of this letter. The letter of appeal should include statements concerning this response, the reasons why it is believed to be erroneous, and the relief sought, along with copies of the original request, this letter, and any other related correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Woody".

Cheryl Woody  
Consumer Research Analyst

Enclosures



# Rules and Regulations Governing Conduct on Postal Service Property

## Applicability

These rules and regulations apply to all real property under the charge and control of the U.S. Postal Service®, to all tenant agencies, and to all persons entering in or on such property. These rules and regulations must be kept posted at a conspicuous place on all such property. These rules and regulations shall not apply to:

- Any portions of real property, owned or leased by the Postal Service™, that are leased or subleased by the Postal Service to private tenants for their exclusive use.
- With respect to restrictions on soliciting, electioneering, collecting debts, vending, and advertising on sidewalks along the street frontage of Postal Service property falling within the property lines of the Postal Service that are not physically distinguishable from adjacent municipal or other public sidewalks and any paved areas adjacent to such sidewalks that are not physically distinguishable from such sidewalks.

## Recording Presence

Except as otherwise ordered, properties must be closed to the public after normal business hours. Properties also may be closed to the public in emergency situations and at such times as may be necessary for the orderly conduct of business. Admission to properties when closed to the public may be limited to authorized individuals who may be required to sign the register and display identification when requested by Security Force personnel or other authorized individuals.

## General Restrictions

### Preservation of Property

Littering, spitting, creating any hazard to persons or things, throwing articles of any kind from a building, climbing upon the roof or any part of the building, or willfully destroying, damaging, or removing any property or any part thereof is prohibited.

### Conformity with Signs and Directions

All persons in and on property shall comply with official signs of a prohibitory or directory nature and with the directions of Security Force personnel or other authorized individuals.

### Inspection

Purses, briefcases, and other containers brought into, while on, or being removed from the property are subject to inspection. However, items brought directly to a Postal Service facility's customer mailing acceptance area and deposited in the mail are not subject to inspection, except as provided by the *Administrative Support Manual*, part 274. A person arrested for violation of this part may be searched incident to the arrest. Vehicles and their contents brought into, while on, or being removed from restricted nonpublic areas are subject to inspection. Persons entering these areas who object and refuse to consent to the inspection of the vehicle, its contents, or both may be denied entry. After entering the area without objection, consent to inspection shall be implied. A full search of the person and the vehicle driven or occupied by that person may accompany an arrest.

## Specific Restrictions

### Disturbances

Disorderly conduct, or conduct that creates loud and unusual noise or obstructs the usual use of entrances, foyers, corridors, offices, elevators, stairways, and parking lots, or that otherwise tends to impede or disturb the public employees in the performance of their duties or otherwise impedes or disturbs the general public in transacting business or obtaining the services provided on Postal Service property is prohibited.

### Gambling

Participating in games for money or other personal property, the operation of gambling devices, the conduct of a lottery or pool, or the selling or purchasing of lottery tickets is prohibited on postal premises. This does not apply to state lottery tickets at vending facilities operated by licensed blind persons where such lotteries are authorized by state law.

### Alcoholic Beverages, Drugs, and Smoking

Anyone under the influence of alcohol or any drug that has been defined as a "controlled substance" may not enter Postal Service property or operate a motor vehicle on Postal Service property. The possession, sale, or use of any "controlled substance" (except when permitted by law) or the sale or use of any alcoholic beverage (except as authorized by the Postmaster General or designee) on Postal Service premises is prohibited. The term "controlled substance" is defined in Title 21, *United States Code* section 802. Smoking is prohibited in all Postal Service buildings and office space, including public lobbies.

### Soliciting, Electioneering, Collecting Debts, Vending, and Advertising

Soliciting alms and contributions, campaigning for election to any public office, collecting private debts, commercial soliciting and vending, displaying or distributing commercial advertising, soliciting signatures on petitions, polls, or surveys (except as otherwise authorized by Postal Service regulations), and impeding entrance to or departure from Post Offices™ are prohibited on Postal Service property. These prohibitions do not apply to the following:

- Commercial or nonprofit activities performed under contract with the Postal Service or pursuant to the provisions of the Randolph-Sheppard Act.
- Posting notices on employee bulletin boards as authorized by Title 39 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) 243.2.
- The solicitation of U.S. Postal Service and other federal military or civilian personnel for contributions by recognized agencies as authorized by the *Manual on Fund Raising Within Federal Service*, issued under Executive Order 12353.

### Public Assembly and Public Address

Leafleting, distributing literature, picketing, and demonstrating by members of the public are prohibited in lobbies and other interior areas open to the public. Public assembly and public address, except when conducted or sponsored by the Postal Service, are prohibited in lobbies and other interior areas open to the public.

### Depositing Literature

Depositing or posting of handbills, flyers, pamphlets, signs, posters, placards, or other literature (except official Postal Service and other governmental notices and announcements) on the grounds, walks, driveways, parking and maneuvering areas, exteriors of buildings, and other structures, or on the floors, walls, stairs, racks, counters, desks, writing tables, window ledges, or furnishings in interior public areas on Postal Service premises is prohibited. This does not apply to the following:

- Posting notices on employee bulletin boards as authorized by 39 CFR 243.2.
- Interior space assigned to tenants for their exclusive use.

### Photographs for News, Advertising, or Commercial Purposes

Photographs for news purposes may be taken in entrances, lobbies, foyers, corridors, or auditoriums when used for public meetings except where prohibited by official signs or Security Force personnel or other authorized personnel or a federal court order or rule. Other photographs may be taken only with the permission of the local postmaster or installation head.

### Dogs and Other Animals

Dogs and other animals (except those used to assist persons with disabilities) must not be brought onto Postal Service property for other than official purposes.

### Vehicular and Pedestrian Traffic

Drivers of all vehicles in or on Postal Service property must be in possession of a current and valid driver's license and vehicle registration, and the vehicle must display all current and valid tags and licenses required by the jurisdiction in which it is registered. Drivers who have had their privilege or license to drive suspended or revoked shall not drive any vehicle in or on Postal Service property during such period of suspension or revocation.

Drivers of all vehicles in or on Postal Service premises shall drive in a careful and safe manner at all times and must comply with signals and directions of Security Force personnel, other authorized individuals, and all posted traffic signs.

Blocking of entrances, driveways, walks, loading platforms, or fire hydrants is prohibited.

Parking without authority, parking in unauthorized locations or in reserved locations, or parking continuously in excess of 18 hours without permission or contrary to the direction of posted signs is prohibited. Supplemental specific traffic directives may be issued by the postmaster or installation head. When issued and posted, such directives shall have the same force and effect as if made a part hereof.

### Voter Registration

Voter registration may be conducted on Postal Service property only with the approval of the postmaster or installation head. See 39 CFR 232.1(h)(4) for the conditions that apply to voter registration activities on Postal Service property.

### Weapons and Explosives

No person while on Postal Service property may carry firearms, other dangerous or deadly weapons, or explosives, either openly or concealed, or store the same on Postal Service property, except for official purposes.

## Nondiscrimination

No person entering on postal property shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age (40 years of age or older), or disability (physical or mental) in using any of the services offered by the U.S. Postal Service.

## Penalties and Other Law

Alleged violations of these rules and regulations are heard, and the penalties prescribed herein are imposed, either in a federal district court or by a federal magistrate in accordance with applicable court rules. Questions regarding such rules must be directed to the managing counsel for the office involved.

Individuals found guilty of violating these rules and regulations are subject to a fine of not more than \$50 or imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or both. Nothing contained in these rules and regulations shall be construed to abrogate any other federal laws or regulations or any state or local laws and regulations applicable to any area in which the property is situated.

## Enforcement

Security Force personnel will exercise the powers of special police and are responsible for enforcing the regulations in this notice in a manner that will protect U.S. Postal Service property. Postal Inspectors, Office of Inspector General Special Agents, and anyone designated by the Chief Postal Inspector may also enforce these regulations.

**124.57 Seasonal Displays**

Seasonal displays on postal property concern events or seasons that have a substantive impact upon mailing patterns. The following guidelines apply to seasonal displays by the Postal Service, its employees, or agents:

- a. Displays should relate to the business of the Postal Service, such as promoting the use of postal products and services and encouraging customers to send greetings and gifts.
- b. The Postal Service must avoid the appearance of favoring any particular religion or religion itself.
- c. Symbols identified with a particular religion, including but not limited to nativity scenes, crosses, or the Star of David, shall not be displayed on postal property. Examples of permissible displays include: stamps and stamp art, evergreen trees bearing nonreligious ornaments, menorahs (when displayed in conjunction with other seasonal matter), wreaths, holly, candy canes, Santa Claus, reindeer, dreidels, snowmen, stockings, candles, carolers, hearts, colored lights, and Kwanzaa symbols such as mkeka (a straw mat), kikombe cha umoja (unity cup), or mishumaa saba (a seven place candle holder with three red, three green, and one black candle).
- d. Printed expressions "Season's Greetings" and "Happy Holidays" should be used in lieu of "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Hanukkah."

**124.58 Photographs for News, Advertising, or Commercial Purposes**

Photographs for news purposes may be taken in entrances, lobbies, foyers, corridors, or auditoriums when used for public meetings, except as prohibited by official signs, the directions of postal police officers, other authorized personnel, or a federal court order or rule. Other photographs may be taken only with the permission of the local postmaster or installation head.

**124.59 Dogs, Other Animals, and Weapons and Explosives**

- a. Dogs and other animals: Dogs and other animals, except those used to assist persons with disabilities (service animals), may not be brought on postal property for other than official reasons. A "service animal" may be any species, breed, or size and may or may not be licensed, certified, or marked as a service animal. Service animals can assist persons with a wide range of disabilities, whether a disability is visible or not, including physical and mental disorders.
- b. Weapons and explosives: No one on postal property may carry or store firearms, other dangerous or deadly weapons, or explosives, whether openly or concealed, for other than official reasons.

**Note:** All classified postal units must display in lobbies Poster 7, *Rules and Regulations Governing Conduct on Postal Property*. No other signage referring to dogs or service animals should be posted in lobbies or on entry doors. See 125.342.

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(b) The Chief Postal Inspector is designated as the Security Officer for the U.S. Postal Service. That official is responsible for the issuance of instructions and regulations pertaining to security requirements within the Postal Service.

(39 U.S.C. 401)

[36 FR 4762, Mar. 12, 1971]

### § 231.2 Security Control Officer.

The postmaster or a supervisor designated by the postmaster shall act as Security Control Officer for each post office. The Security Control Officer shall be responsible for the general security of the post office, its stations and branches, in accordance with rules and regulations issued by the Chief Postal Inspector.

(39 U.S.C. 401)

[36 FR 4762, Mar. 12, 1971]

## PART 232—CONDUCT ON POSTAL PROPERTY

AUTHORITY: 18 U.S.C. 13, 3061; 21 U.S.C. 802, 844; 39 U.S.C. 401, 403(b)(3), 404(a)(7), 1201(2).

### § 232.1 Conduct on postal property.

(a) *Applicability.* This section applies to all real property under the charge and control of the Postal Service, to all tenant agencies, and to all persons entering in or on such property. This section shall be posted and kept posted at a conspicuous place on all such property. This section shall not apply to—

(i) Any portions of real property, owned or leased by the Postal Service, that are leased or subleased by the Postal Service to private tenants for their exclusive use;

(ii) With respect to sections 232.1(h)(1) and 232.1(o), sidewalks along the street frontage of postal property falling within the property lines of the Postal Service that are not physically distinguishable from adjacent municipal or other public sidewalks, and any paved areas adjacent to such sidewalks that are not physically distinguishable from such sidewalks.

(b) *Inspection, recording presence.* (1) Purses, briefcases, and other containers brought into, while on, or being removed from the property are subject

to inspection. However, items brought directly to a postal facility's customer mailing acceptance area and deposited in the mail are not subject to inspection, except as provided by section 274 of the Administrative Support Manual. A person arrested for violation of this section may be searched incident to that arrest.

(2) Vehicles and their contents brought into, while on, or being removed from restricted nonpublic areas are subject to inspection. A prominently displayed sign shall advise in advance that vehicles and their contents are subject to inspection when entering the restricted nonpublic area, while in the confines of the area, or when leaving the area. Persons entering these areas who object and refuse to consent to the inspection of the vehicle, its contents, or both, may be denied entry; after entering the area without objection, consent shall be implied. A full search of a person and any vehicle driven or occupied by the person may accompany an arrest.

(3) Except as otherwise ordered, properties must be closed to the public after normal business hours. Properties also may be closed to the public in emergency situations and at such other times as may be necessary for the orderly conduct of business. Admission to properties during periods when such properties are closed to the public may be limited to authorized individuals who may be required to sign the register and display identification documents when requested by security force personnel or other authorized individuals.

(c) *Preservation of property.* Improperly disposing of rubbish, spitting, creating any hazard to persons or things, throwing articles of any kind from a building, climbing upon the roof or any part of a building, or willfully destroying, damaging, or removing any property or any part thereof, is prohibited.

(d) *Conformity with signs and directions.* All persons in and on property shall comply with official signs of a prohibitory or directory nature, and with the directions of security force personnel or other authorized individuals.

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(iii) The registration is permitted only in those areas of the postal premises regularly open to the public.

(iv) The registration must not interfere with the conduct of postal business, postal customers, or postal operations.

(v) The organization conducting the voter registration must provide and be responsible for any equipment and supplies.

(vi) Contributions may not be solicited.

(vii) Access to the workroom floor is prohibited.

(viii) The registration activities are limited to an appropriate period before an election.

(5) Except as part of postal activities or activities associated with those permitted under paragraph (h)(4) of this section, no tables, chairs, freestanding signs or posters, structures, or furniture of any type may be placed in postal lobbies or on postal walkways, steps, plazas, lawns or landscaped areas, driveways, parking lots, or other exterior spaces.

(i) *Photographs for news, advertising, or commercial purposes.* Except as prohibited by official signs or the directions of security force personnel or other authorized personnel, or a Federal court order or rule, photographs for news purposes may be taken in entrances, lobbies, foyers, corridors, or auditoriums when used for public meetings. Other photographs may be taken only with the permission of the local postmaster or installation head.

(j) *Dogs and other animals.* Dogs and other animals, except those used to assist persons with disabilities, must not be brought upon postal property for other than official purposes.

(k) *Vehicular and pedestrian traffic.* (1) Drivers of all vehicles in or on property shall be in possession of a current and valid state or territory issued driver's license and vehicle registration, and the vehicle shall display all current and valid tags and licenses required by the jurisdiction in which it is registered.

(2) Drivers who have had their privilege or license to drive suspended or revoked by any state or territory shall not drive any vehicle in or on property

during such period of suspension or revocation.

(3) Drivers of all vehicles in or on property shall drive in a careful and safe manner at all times and shall comply with the signals and directions of security force personnel, other authorized individuals, and all posted traffic signs.

(4) The blocking of entrances, driveways, walks, loading platforms, or fire hydrants in or on property is prohibited.

(5) Parking without authority, parking in unauthorized locations or in locations reserved for other persons, or continuously in excess of 18 hours without permission, or contrary to the direction of posted signs is prohibited. This section may be supplemented by the postmaster or installation head from time to time by the issuance and posting of specific traffic directives as may be required. When so issued and posted such directives shall have the same force and effect as if made a part hereof.

(l) *Weapons and explosives.* Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule or regulation, no person while on postal property may carry firearms, other dangerous or deadly weapons, or explosives, either openly or concealed, or store the same on postal property, except for official purposes.

(m) *Nondiscrimination.* There must be no discrimination by segregation or otherwise against any person or persons because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age (persons 40 years of age or older are protected), reprisal (discrimination against a person for having filed or for having participated in the processing of an EEO complaint—29 CFR 1613.261–262), or physical or mental handicap, in furnishing, or by refusing to furnish to such person or persons the use of any facility of a public nature, including all services, privileges, accommodations, and activities provided on postal property.

(n) *Conduct with regard to meetings of the Board of Governors.* (1) Without the permission of the chairman no person may participate in, film, televise, or broadcast any portion of any meeting of the Board or any subdivision or committee of the Board. Any person may electronically record or photograph a